

Appl. No.: 10/701,149
Amendment Dated April 13, 2005
Reply to Office Action of January 14, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for continuously producing a laminate with at least one powder layer, wherein comprising directing a first layer along a longitudinal direction (167) is supplied to a second layer, applying a (168), and wherein the powder layer (10) is applied at least to the first layer continuously along the longitudinal direction, and wherein before arranging the second layer on the powder layer [(10)] and the first layer, removing a portion of the powder layer (10) is removed from the first layer, thereby producing powder layers that are separated from one another and which are arranged one after another in the longitudinal direction.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method of claim 1, ~~wherein further comprising arranging a binder is arranged~~ at least in strips between separated powder layers for producing a transverse seal of the laminate.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method of claim 1, wherein at least one binder feed device is used for applying to the first layer a first binder in the longitudinal direction for producing a longitudinal seal, and a second binder feed device is used for applying to the second layer a second binder for producing a transverse seal upon contact of the second binder layer with the first layer.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method of claim [[1]] 3, wherein, for the transverse seal, a longitudinal seal of the laminate is continuously produced.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method of claim [[1]] 2, wherein the binder [[(164)]] is arranged at least in part discontinuously.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method of claim [[1]] 2, wherein at least one portion of the seal is mechanically produced, with the binder producing a mechanically acting bond between the first and the second layer.

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7. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method of claim 1, wherein an adhesive is applied at least in part to the second layer, which is subsequently supplied to the first layer carrying the powder layer.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method of claim [[1]] 7, ~~wherein~~ including cutting the first layer and the second layer ~~are cut~~ only after having totally sealed the powder layer.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method of claim 8, wherein the individual, separated and sealed powder layers are deposited, and individual laminates are supplied to further processing.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method of claim [[1]] 8, wherein completely sealed and spaced powder layers are stored in a coherent manner and subsequently supplied to further processing, in which the sealed powder layers are separated from one another at least in part.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method of claim 1, wherein, as an ingredient of the powder layer, at least one material is used that is in a position to influence at least a direct environment of the laminate.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method of claim 1, wherein, as an ingredient of the powder layer, at least one absorbent material is used, and the laminate is produced as an absorbent sheet.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method of claim 1, wherein, as an ingredient for the powder layer at least one odor-influencing material is used.

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14. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method of claim 1, wherein, as an ingredient of the powder layer at least one detergent is used.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method of claim 1, wherein, with the powder layer ~~or in the place thereof~~, a material of a different geometric configuration is applied to the first layer.

16. (Withdrawn) Apparatus for continuously producing a laminate comprising at least one first feed device for supplying a first layer, a second feed device for supplying a second layer, and a powder feed device, for arranging at least one powder layer between the first layer and the second layer wherein a material removing device is arranged for removing powder in defined locations from the first layer before supplying the second layer to the first layer for producing interruptions along a length of the powder layer.

17. (Withdrawn) Apparatus for continuously producing a laminate comprising at least one first feed device for supplying a first layer, a second feed device for supplying a second layer, and a powder feed device for arranging at least one powder layer between the first layer and the second layer, wherein at least one crossbar is arranged on the first layer crosswise to the direction of movement for forming a boundary surface for the powder that is to be applied, with the crossbar being designed such that a surface on the first layer is kept free, so that the surface can subsequently form a part of a transverse seal of the laminate.

18. (Withdrawn) Apparatus for continuously producing a laminate, comprising a least one feed device for a first layer, a second feed device for a second layer, and a powder feed device, with the powder feed device arranging a powder on the first layer at least before the second feed device supplies the second layer to the first layer, wherein a binder feed device for producing a transverse seal is arranged relative the second feed device such that a binder can be applied to one side of the second layer, which is subsequently bonded to one side of the first layer, to which a powder layer has been applied.

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19. (Withdrawn) Apparatus of claim 16, wherein a depositing device is arranged downstream, which receives the individual or interconnected powder layers that are separated from one another by being totally sealed.

20. (Withdrawn) Apparatus of claim 16, additionally including detection means, which permit distinguishing sections of the laminate with and without a powder layer.

21. (Withdrawn) A laminate comprising at least one first layer, a second layer, and a powder layer which is arranged between the first layer and the second layer and including a longitudinal seal and a transverse seal that comprises at least in part a different binder than the longitudinal seal.

22. (Withdrawn) The laminate of claim 21, wherein one of said seals has a breaking strength greater than that of the other said seal.

23. (Withdrawn) The laminate of claim 21 which additionally includes a marking which defines a cutting line.

24. (Withdrawn) The laminate of claim 21 in the form of an absorbent pad or cloth.

25. (Withdrawn) The laminate of claim 21 in the form of a scented pad or cloth.

26. (Withdrawn) The laminate of claim 21 in the form of a detergent pad or cloth.